

Dear Members of the Public Health Committee:

I urge you to support HB 6025 "An Act Allowing Medical Assistants To Administer Medication Under Supervision."

I have a major commitment to the Norwalk Community Health Center, which provides care to the medically underserved. Administration of vaccines is a vital part of caring for this (and all) populations. During my sessions at NCHC I work closely with a highly trained medical assistant; as a team we assess and treat our patients. If one of our patients requires an immunization we must interrupt a nurse who is providing care to another patient. This leads to delays in care and at those times that the facility is short-staffed may lead to interruption of care.

Medical assistants receive training in vaccine and medication administration. They should be allowed to do so under the supervision of a physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant. Allowing medical assistants to fully utilize their training will lead to improved care in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Sally R. Bergwerk, MD, MPH, FACP